



SHERMAN INDIAN HIGH SCHOOL

ACADEMICS

ADMINISTRATION

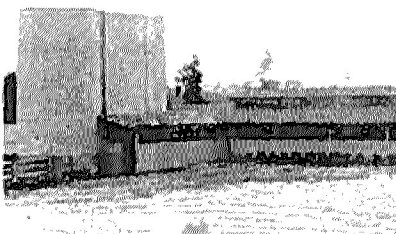
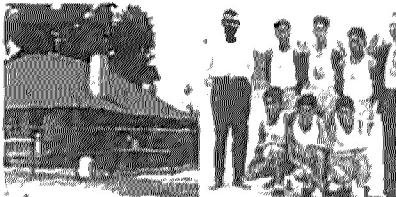
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Sherman History



In 1890 Mr. Horatio N. Rust was instructed by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to find a suitable site in Southern California for an Indian training school. In 1892 under Mr. Savage's direction the first Indian school in Southern California was located in Perris. The school was located on the corner of Perris Blvd. and Morgan Street south of the Ramona Expressway Perris, California. The school building faced Perris Boulevard and the dormitory faced Morgan Street behind a stand of palm trees. The student population was primarily from California Indian tribes, and there were also eight Pima students who attended the Perris School.

In 1897, Superintendent Harwood Hall realized the need for a better location because the water supply at Perris was inadequate for the needs of the school. Mr. Hall appealed to James Schoolcraft Sherman, Chairman of Indian Affairs, in the U.S. House Representatives, and later Vice President of the United States, for funds to build a new school. The area of Riverside, California, was selected to be the site for this new school. On May 31, 1900 Congress authorized \$75,000 for the construction of Sherman Institute. This is the present day site.

On July 18, 1901, the cornerstone of the old school building was laid. The School was named for James Schoolcraft Sherman who had been responsible for making this project a reality. Nine buildings were completed and officially accepted in May 1902. In the fall of 1902, eight grades were in operation. Later, agriculture and industrial arts programs were added to the school's curriculum.

By 1908, 550 students were enrolled, using 34 buildings. A junior high school program was comprised of academic subjects and industrial training. The industrial courses offered included carpentry, painting, cabinetmaking, blacksmithing, wagon construction, shoe and harness shops, tailoring, agriculture, home economics, and home nursing. The "outing system" was inaugurated at that time.

The Sherman Institute also ran a farm during this time. The Sherman Farm was 110 acres and was located near the present community of Home Gardens on Magnolia Avenue in Riverside, California. The farm served as both a training ground and a source of food for the school. The acreage also included the Sherman School Cemetery. Over the years, the government sold this property, but has retained a small area that was set-aside for the school cemetery. This cemetery is cared for and maintained by Sherman Indian High School. Each year at the beginning of May is a day called "Flower Day." This is a day celebrated by California Indian Tribes. Sherman students remember former alumni by placing flowers on the grave sites.

The school continued to grow, and by 1909, 43 tribes were represented on the school roll. Not only were the numbers growing, but students were all coming from a larger geographic area. The students now represented tribes from California and the regions of the Pacific Northwest, the Southwest, the Plains.

In 1909, the students were in grades one to eight. By 1916, the institute was able to expand the from first grade to tenth. The growth continued over the next ten years, and by 1926, the school offered a complete elementary and high school curriculum, as well as a course in cosmetology. The enrollment had reached 1,000 students. An enrollment of 1,256 was recorded in 1928. However, the growth was not to last. Difficult times followed for the Nation. During the years of the Great Depression, from 1930 to 1936, the enrollment decreased. California Indians became integrated into public schools. Even with the challenges of the times, Sherman Institute became an accredited high school in 1932.

In 1946, following WW II, the desperate need for education among the Navajo Nation guaranteed the continuance of Sherman as an educational institution. October 1946 marked the opening of the Special Program to 30 Navajo youth, age 12 to 20, who had never experienced a formal education. Due to the unique qualities of the Special Program the regular elementary and high school programs were discontinued by 1948. This Special Program operated for more than fifteen years. Each year the school made gradual changes to meet the needs of the students. During this time no California Indians were permitted at the school.

In the fall of 1963, the ninth and tenth grades were revived. Sherman reopened enrollment to other tribes, including California Indian tribes. The school again moved in the direction of a high school program, adding a grade each year until the school began graduating classes in 1966.

In 1967 eight buildings were deemed unable to withstand a major earthquake. One of the last buildings to be razed was the old school building in 1970. The old cornerstone from this building and its contents were saved and placed in the Sherman Museum (old Administrative Building), the last of the original buildings. The current school buildings on the Sherman campus were built in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In 1971, Sherman was re-accredited as a High School becoming known as Sherman Indian High School. Sherman celebrated its Centennial Anniversary on October 13, 2000. A rose garden in the design of a medicine wheel was planted by the original Sherman flagpole to commemorate the occasion.

Today Sherman Indian High School offers a comprehensive high school program designed to enable each student to realize his/her full potential emotionally, socially, physically, academically, and vocationally, so the student may become a useful member of our ever-changing democratic society. Sherman Indian High School is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

The Museum houses records from the school's early days to the present. Over two thousand cataloged items and/or artifacts of American Indian origin are housed there. These items were acquired from friends of the school and the museum. On October 20, 1974, the Sherman Indian Museum was designated as a Riverside Cultural Heritage Landmark number 16. It was entered into

the National Register of Historic places on January 9, 1980.

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Sherman Indian School 9010 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, CA 92503
Phone: (951) 276-6325 - FAX (951) 276-6336